

CHARGE NUMBER: Project 1720
PROJECT TITLE: Microstructure Research
PERIOD COVERED: February 1-28, 1983
PROJECT LEADER: L. R. McCray
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Air Cured Bright Tobacco

Light microscopy and scanning electron microscopy studies are in progress, and some preliminary results have been obtained:

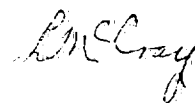
- a. Cross-sectional thickness measurements on mid-stalk position samples of ripe, end of flue curing and end of air curing indicated a decrease in thickness. Air cured samples were approximately half as thick as flue cured samples.
- b. Density of trichomes and stomata per unit area was studied to determine the degree of lateral shrinkage of the leaf as a result of curing. Minimal changes were observed between ripe, flue and air cured samples, which indicate little, if any, lateral shrinkage during curing.

The prevalence of mold on/in air cured tobacco as compared to flue cured tobacco is being investigated.

Image Analysis

The "IBAS" image analysis system, distributed by Zeiss, Inc., is being evaluated.

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